

**New Program Proposal  
Associate Degree in Health Sciences, Major in Pharmacy Technology  
Horry-Georgetown Technical College  
Grand Strand Campus**

**Summary**

Horry-Georgetown Technical College requests approval to offer a program leading to the Associate Degree in Health Sciences with a major in Pharmacy Technology, to be implemented in Fall 2004 on the Grand Strand campus.

The proposal was submitted for Commission review on October 16, 2003. The proposal was reviewed and voted upon favorably by the Advisory Committee on Academic Programs at its meeting on January 21, 2004. The Technical College System Board approved the proposal on February 12, 2004.

The purpose of the program is to meet the need of regional and national demands for pharmacy technicians given the rapid growth and expansion of retail drugstores and hospitals. Upon completion of the program, graduates will be prepared to take the Pharmacy Technician Certification Board examination as well as work for pharmacists in a hospital or retail drugstore setting, or to develop a career as a pharmacy company representative. The need for the program is based on demand for Pharmacy Technicians driven by rapid population growth in the area, the aging of the population as the area becomes a center for retirees, and the concomitant growth in the number of pharmacies and demand on hospital pharmacies. There are currently over 100 pharmacies and six hospitals in the immediate area, and growth is predicted in both arenas. Based on a Needs Assessment Survey, the proposal reports that there will be a need for approximately 189 pharmacy technicians in the next three years, with 97 new positions and 89 “turnover” positions, far more than the program will be able to provide.

The curriculum consists of 70 credit hours. Of these, nine credits are in general education, with the rest in pharmacy (40), biology and chemistry (8), allied health sciences (4), public speaking (3) computers (3) and a humanities elective (3). The college plans to add up to 13 new courses to its catalogue to support the program.

Greenville Technical College, Midlands Technical College, and Trident Technical College currently offer certificate programs for pharmacy technicians. Midlands Technical College also offers an Associate degree in Pharmacy Technology, which it is

phasing out. The local and regional need for pharmacy technologists is such that no conflict with these programs is anticipated.

Horry-Georgetown Technical College indicates that the proposed Pharmacy Technology degree will require the hiring of one full-time faculty member (1 FTE) and one part-time faculty (.5 FTE), with both hired immediately. A Doctor of Pharmacy or a Registered Pharmacist is preferred for the instruction of the courses contained within this curriculum. In addition to work experience in this related field, teaching experience is preferred for both the full-time and the part-time position. The faculty members will be the only new staff hired for this program.

Enrollment in the proposed program is estimated to begin at 24 headcount (34.4 FTE) in FY 2004-05 and increase to 40 headcount (48.8 FTE) by FY 2005-2006. Estimates are based on the anticipated interest in career opportunities, existing employment trends in the College's service area, and projected population growth along the Grand Strand. If met, these enrollment projections exceed the Commission's minimum productivity standards.

The College will seek accreditation through the American Society of Health System Pharmacists. The College will also encourage and prepare students to sit for the National Pharmacy Technician Certification Examination. This examination, while not required for graduation or employment, is increasingly recognized as a measure of competency by major pharmacy chains such as Walgreen's.

Current renovations taking place on the Grand Strand Campus will satisfy the physical plant requirements of this program. All equipment for the program will be purchased during the first year, at a total cost of \$71,250. The cost of supplies is estimated at \$8000 for each year. The general funds of the College will be used to support this program.

According to the program proposal, the libraries located on the Grand Strand, Conway and Georgetown campuses have 24 books and no AV materials related to the proposed Pharmacy Technology curriculum. The college does subscribe to nine database providers that offer access to fifteen different pharmacy-related research databases, containing full text articles related the Pharmacy Technology curriculum. The college estimates that four periodical subscriptions will be required, at an annual cost of \$850 for one campus. The estimated cost over a three-year period to acquire resources to support the program will be \$22,350. The library is expected to have adequate resources to support the library by the second year. As Pharmacy Technology faculty are hired, faculty members will be invited to purchase library instructional support resources to meet their personal teaching style needs and student instructional needs.

New costs for the program are estimated to begin at \$171,600 in year one and include faculty salaries/fringe (\$80,500), equipment (\$71,250), library resources (\$11,850) and supplies (\$8,000). Estimated costs decrease to \$99,787 by year three and include faculty salaries/fringe (\$87,337), supplies (\$8,000), and library resources (\$4,450). The total estimated new cost is \$369,272 for the program's first three years.

Sources of funds for the new program are estimated to be primarily from reallocation of existing funds (\$112,488 in the first year), and tuition from new students (\$59,112 in the first year and \$86,112 in the second and third years).

Shown below are the estimated Mission Resource Requirement (MRR) costs to the state and new costs not funded by the MRR associated with implementation of the proposed program for its first three years. Also shown are the estimated revenues projected under the MRR and the Resource Allocation Plan as well as student tuition.

Year	Estimated MRR Cost for Proposed Program	Extraordinary (Non-MRR) Costs for Proposed Program	Total Costs	State Appropriation	Tuition	Total Revenue
Year 1	\$593,434		<b>\$593,434</b>	\$0	\$88,286	<b>\$88,286</b>
Year 2	\$841,849		<b>\$841,849</b>	157,467	\$125,170	<b>\$282,637</b>
Year 3	\$841,849		<b>\$841,849</b>	223,491	\$125,170	<b>\$348,661</b>

These data demonstrate that if Horry-Georgetown Technical College meets the projected student enrollments as they are shown in the proposal, the program will not be able to cover new costs with revenues it generates by the third year of its implementation.

In summary, Horry Georgetown Technical College will offer a program leading to the Associate degree in Health Sciences with a major in Pharmacy Technology. The graduates of the program will help to meet the local growth in demand for pharmacy services for a growing and aging population. The stated demand for these employees far exceeds the proposed program's projected production of graduates.

### **Recommendation**

The Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing recommends that the Commission approve Horry-Georgetown's proposed program leading to the Associate Degree in Health Sciences with a Major in Pharmacy Technology for implementation in Fall 2004, provided that no "unique cost" or other special state funding be required or requested.